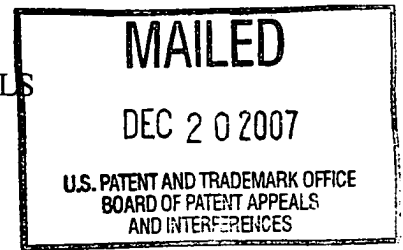


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES  
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Ex parte FUFANG ZHA and ANTHONY JAMES STUBBS  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Application No. 10/774,041  
\_\_\_\_\_

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

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This application was received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on December 10, 2007. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

**APPEAL BRIEF**

**Summary Of Claimed Subject Matter**

Appellant filed an Appeal Brief dated March 30, 2007, in response to the Final Rejection mailed August 02, 2006. The Appeal Brief is not in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c). 37 CFR § 41.37(c) states:

(a)(1) Appellant must file a brief under this section within two months from the date of filing the notice of appeal under § 41.31.

\* \* \*

(c)(1) The brief shall contain the following items...of this section:

(v) *Summary Of Claimed Subject Matter*. A concise statement of each ground of rejection presented for review.

An in-depth review of the Appeal Brief indicates that the following sections are missing from the Appeal Brief. The Appeal Brief does not contain a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, referring to the specification by page and line number and to the drawings, if any, by reference characters; and/or (b) the brief fails to: (1) identify, for each independent claim involved in the appeal and for each dependent claims argued separately, every means plus functions and step plus function under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, and/or (2) set forth the structure, material, or acts described in the specification as corresponding to each claimed function with references to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawings, if any, by reference characters (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v)).

Section 37 CFR § 41.37(c) further states:

(d) If a brief is filed which does not comply with all the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, appellant will be notified of the reasons for non-compliance and given a time period within which to file an amended brief. If appellant does not file an amended brief within the set time period, or files an amended brief which does not overcome all the reasons for non-compliance stated in the notification, the appeal will stand dismissed.

The reference to the U.S. Patent Application Publication paragraph numbers does not comply with 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v). When the Office holds the brief to be defective solely due to appellant's failure to provide a summary of the claimed subject matter as required by 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v), an entire new brief need not, and should not, be filed. Rather, a paper providing a summary of the claimed subject matter as required by 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v) will suffice. Failure to timely respond to the Office's requirement will result in dismissal of the appeal. See MPEP § 1215.04 and § 711.02(b).

**CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, it is

**ORDERED** that the application is returned to the Examiner for appropriate action on the following:

- 1) to hold the Appeal Brief filed March 30, 2007 defective
- 2) notify Appellants to file a paper providing a Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37( c )(1)(v), and properly addressing all independent claims on claims appeal; and
- 3) for such action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES



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PATRICK J. NOLAN  
Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator  
(571) 272-9797

PJN/jgr

SIEMENS CORPORATION  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT  
170 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH  
ISELIN NJ 08830